

Blogs relevant to naval operations/warfare, policy, and innovation are monitored for items of interest. Some items include a brief excerpt. If you would like to recommend a blog site for inclusion, or want to be removed from the list please contact Mike Perron at: robert.m.perron.ctr@navy.mil

Also, please check out the new NWDC Navy Center for Innovation Blog at:

<https://www.nwdc.navy.mil/ncoi/blog/>

January 9, 2013

1. WIRED: DANGER ROOM:

6 Strikes, 8 Days, 35 Dead: The U.S. Drone War in Pakistan Is Back: “A trio of drone-fired missile strikes between Wednesday and Thursday killed a Pakistani Taliban commander and at least 19 others. Another on Sunday reportedly killed another 17 people, bringing the estimated death toll in this young year to 35.”

What Did Google Earth Spot in the Chinese Desert? Even an Ex-CIA Analyst Isn't Sure “I haven't the faintest clue what it might be — but it's extensive, the structures are pretty big and funny-looking, and it went up in what I'd call an incredible hurry,” he emails. So he'd like your help in solving this little mystery.”

2. CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SECURITY:

An International Response to Maritime Insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea: “As usual from ICG, the analysis is excellent and informative, with reasonable policy recommendations to address the problems associated with increasing security challenges afloat (piracy, oil theft, smuggling, illegal fishing) in the region. Unfortunately, there is little chance that the proposed courses of action will be pursued or efforts by regional states or organizations will be up to addressing these challenges.”

3. INFORMATION DISSEMINATION:

The Sense of Congress on Amphibious Ships: “From what I understand, LSD(X) will be a design to cost ship. The recurring cost (ship 3 and beyond) is pegged to be about \$1.2 billion in the shipbuilding budget. That makes the LPD-17 hull a nonstarter without a significant increase in cash from Congress.”

Strategic Trend of Note: “I think potential energy independence from Middle East exports by 2017 is a pretty big deal, indeed I believe such an achievement would force a significant reevaluation of current strategic posture, particularly in regards to the Middle East.”

4. SMALL WARS JOURNAL:

Where is Lt Zuckerberg?: “As our military struggles to convey an effective message through social media, a more hostile story is still being told on our behalf and without our consent. From Abu Ghraib to Afghanistan and even to Inspire magazine by AlQaeda, other entities -- fueled by social media—have successfully painted our military in a negative light and forced senior leadership to defend our operations to a hostile media in a very reactionary way.”

5. OTHER BLOGS (Rotating, based on relevant content)

ABU MUQAWAMA:

The Market for Covert Action: “National security is a lucrative area where benefits can quickly and massively accrue to actors that fit policymaker needs. While undeniably true in the United States, it is *even more true* elsewhere in the world.”

AVIATION WEEK:

[First Littoral Combat Ship Likely To Deploy In March](#): “The deployment is a major milestone for the Freedom, which has been plagued by a series of operational and fabrication issues. Making the Singapore deployment schedule has become a priority for the Navy.”

THE DEW LINE:

[US Navy's first Lockheed Martin F-35C training aircraft](#): “Unlike most previous stealth aircraft--like the US Air Force's Lockheed F-22 or other F-35 variants, this aircraft has color markings. A Lockheed spokeswoman says that the Navy requested the color scheme and that there is no operational impact on the jet as a result. Apparently, the Navy likes adding color to their jets.”

[Foreign Efforts To Illegally Acquire U.S. High Tech Pose Growing Threat To National Security](#): “U.S. high tech commercial and defense are under increasing assault by governments, non-state actors and commercial rivals around the world. The goal is to acquire critical advanced technologies thereby undercutting America’s competitive advantages as both an industrial and military power.”

[General Dynamics Shipbuilding Unit Books Over \\$4 Billion In Submarine Orders](#): “Although the budget walls seem to be closing in on some of its competitors, General Dynamics is enjoying robust demand for its submarine development and production work.”

FOREIGN POLICY:

[A 'Zero Option' for Afghanistan](#): “Yes, President Karzai, we might pull out completely.”

MARINE CORPS TIMES:

[Experts: Drones basis for new global arms race](#): “The success of U.S. drones in Iraq and Afghanistan has triggered a global arms race, raising concerns the remotely piloted aircraft could fall into unfriendly hands, military experts say.”

[First female Marine Corps general dies](#): “Brewer became the first female Marine general officer when she was appointed to the rank of brigadier general in 1978. She retired in 1980, ending a career that began with her 1952 commissioning into the Marine Corps Reserve.”

NAVAL DIPLOMAT:

[Japan Explores War Scenarios with China](#): “While contingencies involving North Korea’s ballistic missiles and Russia were among the scenarios the defense ministry explored, the top three all involved a crisis in the East China Sea.”

NAVY LIVE:

[Surface Warfare SITREP 2013](#): “You all inspire me. In that vein, I hope you’re planning to attend the 25th Annual SNA National Symposium in Crystal City, January 15-17.” *by Rear Adm. Thomas S. Rowden, Director of Surface Warfare*

NEW ATLANTICIST:

[Economic, Not Security Strategy, Key for Stability in South China Sea](#): “For all of its economic dynamism, the regional stability of the Asia-Pacific is increasingly threatened by conflicting claims over small rocks and archipelagos in the South China Sea. However trivial these disputes may appear, a breakout into physical conflict would have massive ramifications for the US economy...”